MINISTRY OF

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTH WITCHFORD.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1941.

MR. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—

Medical Officers have been requested by the Ministry of Health to refrain from quoting figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed.

We are also asked to confine our remarks to essential matters with the object of saving paper.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. DAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: J. F. DAWSON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: S. HAIGH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(from 16th June, 1941).

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the statistics supplied by the Registrar General.

1. The Birth Rate has increased.
2. The Death Rate has decreased.
3. There is a slight increase in the number of Deaths in Infants under one year.

Laboratory Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Clinics. Hospitals.

Air Raid Precautions.

Facilities available under the above headings have not changed since 1940.

Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is available at Manea for the transport of cases to hospital.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk, Meat and other Foods.

It has not been possible to make regular inspections, as this work is now done by an Officer of a neighbouring Authority in his spare time. Periodic inspections are made and matters to which attention is drawn are attended to.

WATER SUPPLY.

Stonea is without a piped supply, in spite of the fact that the main for the Manea supply passes conveniently near to this village.

Benwick likewise has no piped supply. There are times during the year when the village is without a supply of any kind, with the result that water has to be carted several miles. It is obvious from this that sanitation is primitive, and there is no need to emphasise the danger of epidemic disease occurring in the village while such conditions are allowed to exist.

HOUSING.

No change in housing conditions since 1940.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year, apart from an outbreak of Measles which occurred during the first eight months, the occurrence of infectious disease calls for little comment.

The occurrence of two cases of Diphtheria draws attention to the importance of having every child protected against this disease.

The figures below show the number of children who have been immunised during the year:

Children between 1—5 years.	14	or	4.6 % of the pre-school population.
Children between 5—15 years.	251	or	31.1 % of the school-going population.

It is expected that these figures will be improved upon during 1942.

Parents are strongly urged to have their children protected, particularly children between the years of 1 and 5. It is as much the duty of a parent to protect his or her child from developing a disease as it is for the parent to seek medical advice in the event of a child developing an illness. It is easier for the doctor, the child and the parents to prevent this disease. It is also more economical.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1941.

For the Rural District of North Witchford.

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Age Groups.											Deaths	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever	8						8							
Diphtheria	2						1			1				
Pneumonia	2			1									1	
Puerperal Fever	1										1			
Erysipelas	1								1					
Cerebrospinal Fever	1						1							1
Enteric Fever														
Acute Poliomyelitis														
Whooping Cough	5			1	1	1	1	1						
Measles	175	3	5	10	11	11	106	25	4					1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1												

North Witchford.

TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1941.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—								
1—								
5—								
15—								
25—	1							
35—	1							
45—						1	1	
55—	1				1			
65 and upwards					1			
Totals	3	—	—	—	2	1	1	—